



Children's Activities

Policy

The policy of the RSCDS is to safeguard all children and young people from physical, sexual and emotional harm while taking part in Scottish country dancing activities.

This code of behaviour outlines good practice when working with children; (a) to minimise the situations where abuse of children may occur, (b) to safeguard children from harm, and (c) to prevent teachers, musicians and helpers from being placed in vulnerable situations.

CODE OF PRACTICE 2001/2

1. The RSCDS takes all reasonable steps to ensure through relevant procedures that children taking part in its activities do so in a safe and secure environment.
2. Each Branch is advised to appoint a Youth Co-ordinator who should be available for consultation by teachers and parents about the organisation and conduct of the Branch's activities for children.
3. Only teachers and musicians and helpers who are known and trusted should be appointed to children's classes. They should be asked to confirm in writing that they know of no reason why they should not work with children. Although police checks are not mandatory for the voluntary sector at present, at any time such a check may be run.
4. Teachers are in a position of trust. They must respect a child's right to personal privacy. They should guard against words and actions that could be misunderstood or cause offence. The use of offensive language and behaviour by children should not be tolerated. As SCD is a physical skill, occasional physical contact between teacher and student may be unavoidable. The teacher should ask permission from the child and avoid unnecessary or inappropriate physical contact.
5. Activities for children should be planned on the basis that more than one responsible adult will be present for the duration of the activity. All activities should be conducted in an open manner, where the adult can be observed by others.
6. Children's activities should take place at venues that are safe for the purpose.
7. Appropriate arrangements should be in place for receiving children at the venue and for ensuring that they are collected after the event.
8. If activities are planned away from the usual venue, parental approval in writing should be obtained.